moment., grieving over the recent loss of her earthly partner, with what she was but a few weeks ago. Or follow that widow into the work in which she is now called to engage, and mark the new energies called forth by the unexpected situations in which she is placed. In these new scenes she is the same as she was five years ago as the wife, or as she was twenty years ago as the lively girl—yet how different the train of thought and feeling ! We urge this merely as an illustration of an interesting psychological phenomenon, and as preparing us to believe, that in the downward progress of wickedness there may be fearful changes—and they must be changes to the worse—in human character. There is not a greater difference between the sparkling diamond and the black carbon into which it may be burnt, than there is between the original soul of man, transparent and lustrous, and the same soul calcined by the fires of guilt into the darkest indifference and the most sordid selfishness.

In particular, we may anticipate a drying up of natural affection. The raven that brought intelligence to Apollo was white till it conveyed the sad news of the death of a favourite, when its colour instantly became black : almost as great, almost as sudden, is the change of feeling with which men view certain objects after M change of circumstances. In the vernal days of youth and prosperity, the affections flow and sparkle on all sides, and water and refresh every object near them. But as years roll on, they' are more sparing and restricted in their current. Competition, dashing interests, and selfishness begin to produce an apathy; then the malign passions breaking out, engender a fixed hatred and antipathy. These are the lessons commonly learned by human nature in the school of the world, where selfishness in one leads to selfishness in another, and malignity in one party leads to malignity in the opposite party. The general result is,

that first the leaves wither—they may remain for a time on the stalk—and then they are driven away.

But we are now contemplating the effects produced on the affections, not by the world, but by that judgment which we have supposed God to institute, and issuing in the positive and open rebellion of man. It is difficult to see how any affection, except of the most perverted kind, can outlive such a scorching of the Houl. The amazori, in her warlike pursuits, had her breast dried up that she might light the more fiercely; and there is, we sus-